

Weather Forecast

Partly cloudy today, somewhat colder at night. Tomorrow increasing cloudiness, probably followed by light rain. Temperatures yesterday—Highest, 43, at 3 p.m.; lowest, 35, at 5 a.m. Full report on page A-2.

The Sunday Star

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Sunday Morning and
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FIVE CENTS
TEN CENTS
IN WASHINGTON AND SUBURBS
ELSEWHERE

21 American Nations Form Front For Defense Against Aggression; Roosevelt Pledges Peace Efforts

Brazil Last of 21 To Sign Lima Declaration

BACKGROUND—

Eighty Pan-American Conference opened at Lima, Peru, December 9 with main problem—on agenda—to arrive at a pact or declaration against aggression against the American republics. United States and Argentina engaged in prolonged struggle over breadth of proposed declaration. American position supported by practically all other delegations.

(Text of Pan-American Solidarity Declaration on Page A-5.)

By the Associated Press.

LIMA, Peru, Dec. 24.—The 21 republics of the Western Hemisphere formed a solid front against aggression tonight by proclaiming their decision to defend themselves "against all foreign intervention or activities."

A plenary session of the Pan-American Conference approved the solidarity "declaration of Lima" as conference leader after leader proclaimed its importance in the face of what Secretary of State Cordell Hull called a "critical world situation," when "resort to persecution, force and violence are threatening the peoples of the world with destruction and the horror of armed conflict."

Yule Eve Out of Mind.

Because of the rush of work, most of the delegates had forgotten that it was Christmas eve.

Afranio de Mello Franco, head of the Brazilian delegation and last to sign the declaration before it was presented to tonight's session, declared that "America continues united and vigilant in safeguarding her common interests, in defending her peace, and in efforts toward collaboration."

Later the session adopted by acclamation a peace resolution offered by Mello Franco and modeled on Hull's seven-point program for a world order based on law. The principles included: That maintenance of peace should be advocated and practiced constantly; that nations should refrain from use of force and from interference in the internal affairs of other nations; that they should seek to adjust international problems through peaceful negotiations; that they should uphold the sanctity of treaties; that modification of treaties should be by orderly processes, and that each nation should respect the rights of others.

The Declaration of Lima grew out of more than a fortnight of day and night conferences to give the declaration its strongest meaning and yet preserve the independence of each signatory nation.

Strongest Step Yet.

It was the strongest step ever taken for Pan-American nations to bind themselves together—taken in the shadow of influences from Europe and Asia which many delegates regard as incipient threats to their independence.

Although it was stronger than anything in the past, Mello Franco, before he signed the declaration, issued a statement saying, "Brazil is sure it will be extended in the future through the continuous work of Pan-American conferences."

They agreed that, "Faithful to the above-mentioned principles and to their absolute sovereignty, they reaffirm their decision to maintain and to defend them against all foreign intervention or activities that may threaten them."

The declaration provides for consultation among foreign ministers or secretaries of state in case of menace to the peace.

Based on Argentine Project.

The solidarity and defense pact was based on an Argentine project. Secretary of State Cordell Hull, before he signed the declaration, issued a statement saying, "Brazil is sure it will be extended in the future through the continuous work of Pan-American conferences."

Several high authorities said tonight they regarded it as an even stronger warning to European and Asiatic totalitarian states because it was Argentine rather than United States inspiration.

Vast measures of military preparation in the United States already were known to totalitarian states. (See LIMA, Page A-5.)

Coster-Musica Visited R. F. C. With Representative Patman

Accompanied by Representative Wright Patman of Texas, F. Donald Coster, head of McKesson & Robbins, who killed himself December 16 after having been revealed as the ex-convict Philip Musica, visited the Reconstruction Finance Corp. here several months ago to present a "plan" for financial relief of independent drug firms. It was disclosed yesterday.

Jesse Jones, chairman of the R. F. C., recalled that Coster-Musica saw him on several occasions. Mr. Jones said his recollection was that Mr. Patman accompanied him on the first visit and introduced him. Mr. Jones said he told Coster-Musica that the independents should make their own application. No direct applications ever were received, he said, and the matter apparently was dropped.

Mr. Patman, in Texarkana, Tex., yesterday, declined to make any comment on the visits. He said he



PRESIDENT AT COMMUNITY TREE—President Roosevelt is shown holding a whispered conference with his son James immediately after he delivered a Christmas message to the Nation at the lighting of the community tree in Lafayette Park last night. The President and his party remained to hear carols sung. —Star Staff Photo.

Pope Pius Accuses High Fascists of Damaging Concordat

Cites 'Mistreatment' of Catholic Action and Marriage Decree

(Text of Pope's Message on Page A-4.)

By the Associated Press.

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 24.—Pope Pius XI today deplored Fascist blows to the 10-year-old concordat of reconciliation between the church and the Italian state through the "mistreatment" of the lay organization, Catholic Action, and restrictions on marriages between Jews and non-Jews.

The ailing 81-year-old pontiff, disregarding the advice of his doctors to rest after his recent illness, gave his annual Christmas message to the cardinals and told how troubles with the Italian government had gone straight to his heart. He spoke, he said, in "bitter sadness."

Tired But Spirited.

He appeared tired but spirited as he said he forgave those, whom he did not mention directly, for disrespect for his white hair.

He tendered forgiveness for the flying of the Nazi swastika in Rome last May when Reichsfuehrer Hitler visited. He said Mussolini—insignia which the Holy Father described as "a cross inimical to the cross of Christ."

He criticized as "inhuman" that "which is anti-Christian," especially that which affects the "dignity, liberty and integrity of the individual." God, he declared, would "enlighten minds and move hearts in the direction of truth and justice, which are the sole true and solid bases of the welfare of the individual and also of peoples."

The Pope's Christmas speech in (See POPE, Page A-4.)

Philippine Bandits Loot Train of \$150,000

By the Associated Press.

MANILA, Dec. 24.—Christmas Eve robbers killed two messengers aboard a richly loaded express train to night and escaped with cash and gold bullion valued at \$150,000.

Wielding murderous blows, long knives capable of easy death thrusts, the robbers hacked and stabbed the baggage messenger to death as the train rumbled toward Manila from Baguio, rich gold mining district.

Then they looted the baggage safe and fled some time before the crime was discovered and reported to constabulary officials, who launched an immediate search for the slayers.

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President Lights Christmas Tree In D. C. Park

By CARTER BROOKE JONES.

As a chill, wet dusk fell over Washington on Christmas eve, President Roosevelt, flooding with light the community tree in Lafayette Park that symbolized the warm cheer of Yuletide, delivered to the Nation a pledge to work unceasingly for the spirit of this season—peace.

Hundreds who defied the forbidding weather and gathered with the President in the park heard him hail the progress of the Pan-American Conference at Lima, Peru, as a happy augury at Christmas time and promise to do all in his power to "hasten the day foretold by Isaiah, when men shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Millions more listened to his brief message of good will as three broadcasting systems carried it throughout America and to foreign countries.

Destitute Remembered.

The ceremony in the square opposite the White House climaxed a day in which the city's destitute were remembered at scores of festivities and services, a number of them attended by Mrs. Roosevelt.

It followed a rush of day-before-Christmas activities, in which the stores windowed stampedes of belated shoppers, postmen worked furiously to deliver the last of a Christmas mail that broke records of the City Post Office for the season, and thousands of Washingtonians left town by train, plane, bus or in their own cars to spend the glad day with relatives.

The forecast for today was partly cloudy and somewhat colder than this afternoon and tonight. The Weather Bureau said light rain could be expected tomorrow. The high yesterday was 43 degrees at 2 p.m. and the low was 35 degrees. The temperature at 10 p.m. was 37 degrees, the bureau reported.

Many Under Umbrellas.

A good-sized crowd had collected in Lafayette Park long before the President was due to arrive. Many of them stood under umbrellas. The Marine Band, directed by Capt. Taylor Branson, gave a half-hour concert of Christmas music.

The President arrived on the covered platform, accompanied by his son James. In the presidential party were Mrs. Roosevelt, Mrs. James Roosevelt and her two children, 6-year-old Sara and 2-year-old Kate; Mr. and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt; and Harry Hopkins, the new Secretary of Commerce.

After the invocation was pronounced by Dr. Albert J. McCartney, pastor of the First-Covenant Presbyterian Church, Representative Roger Collier of Mississippi introduced the President.

Mr. Collins said the vast body of common people throughout the world would welcome with new fervor the old, familiar message of "Peace on earth and good will to all men."

"He will meet its challenge," he added, "and rally to its support with a faith rekindled by their dearly bought knowledge of the economic chaos, the human horrors and the final futility of war."

Given Washington's Greeting.

As the President stepped forward, swathed in a heavy overcoat, he and Mrs. Roosevelt were given the Christmas greetings of the people of Washington from a boy and a girl—Robert W. Finlay, Jr., of Troop 24, Boy Scouts of America, and Mary Lou Garvin of Troop 60, Girl Scouts of the District. Mary Lou presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a beautiful bouquet.

The President then pushed a button beside microphones, and the lofty air, dark and dripping in the gloomy twilight, swept into dazzling color, with bulbs of every shade blinking defiance to all drab things and a bright Christmas to Washington and the country. The shivering crowd cheered.

"All our hearts," said the President, "warmed by the eternal fire of Christmas, rejoice, because new life, new hope, new happiness are in them."

He expressed hope that "the boon of peace which we in this country and in the whole Western Hemisphere enjoy under the Providence"

(See ROOSEVELT, Page A-5.)

Business Increases Reported By 17 of 20 Capital Stores

None Say Sales Are Less, While Post Office
Sets New Record for Receipts

Seventeen out of 20 Washington stores in a survey yesterday reported a better Christmas business this year than in 1937. None said business was less, but two reported their sales "running about on par" with last year's volume. Another, declining to make a comparison for the two years, said, however, "We're having a very, very good business."

While percentage figures generally were lacking, pending a checkup after yesterday's closing rush of business, one store reported a 20 per cent increase this December over the same month last year. Another said its business was up 10 per cent.

One of those reporting sales on par with a year ago added, "With a good business we anticipate in the closing shopping hours, we may go ahead of last year's figures."

The final figures may set a new



CHRISTMAS, 1938.

Roosevelt Hears Hopkins Take Oath For Cabinet Post

Former W. P. A. Head
Will Comment Only
On Christmas

Sworn in at a Christmas Eve ceremony in the White House, Harry L. Hopkins tomorrow will assume his new duties as Secretary of Commerce.

The oath was administered to the 48-year-old Iowan in President Roosevelt's study by Associate Justice Stanley F. Reed, of the Supreme Court. The Bible used was a gift from Mrs. Roosevelt.

A few minutes later, the new Secretary, meeting newspapermen for the first time in his role of cabinet officer, was asked if he had any message for business. He smiled aside the question with the suggestion that for the moment, Christmas was the first consideration.

"At an appropriate time in the not so distant future I'll have something definite to say regarding the responsibilities that go with this job."

He added that he hoped to have the Business Advisory Council, created by his predecessor, Secretary Daniel C. Roper, continue to function, remarking in passing that many close friends were among the business leaders in this group. He said also that he expected yesterday afternoon to talk to the council chairman, W. Averell Harriman, of New York, who is chairman of the board of the Union Pacific and a partner of Brown Bros. Harriman & Co.

Business Urged Harriman.

A group of important businessmen recently urged President Roosevelt to give the commerce portfolio to Mr. Harriman, who has been active all during the Roosevelt administration in efforts to bring the White House and business closer together.

Meanwhile, it was apparent yesterday that the reaction of business generally to Mr. Hopkins' appointment would not be manifest until his attitude toward business is known.

Privately it was said that leaders were disappointed. They had hoped that the President would appoint a Secretary of Commerce who would "restore confidence," but business does not view the former W. P. A. head as a particular friend, it was reported. Doubts also were expressed that he has enough of a business background to fill such a policy-forming post as that to which he now advances.

A half-hundred close friends from official and private life saw the new cabinet officer inducted. The ceremony was at the desk where the President was seated, and the company included also Mrs. Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. James Roosevelt and Mr. Hopkins' son David, with his wife, and his small daughter Diane, with whom he is passing Christmas at the White House. None of the cabinet was present.

President Roosevelt told the

(See HOPKINS, Page A-6.)



RABBI SIMON.

Rabbi Abram Simon Dies at 66 After Sudden Illness

Religious and Civic
Leader Victim of
Heart Attack

Stricken with a heart attack shortly after he finished conducting services, Rabbi Abram Simon, religious and civic leader, died late yesterday at his apartment in the Shoreham Hotel. He was 66 years old.

Dr. Simon preached at the Washington Hebrew Congregation in the afternoon and was taken suddenly ill about 2:30. He was removed to his apartment, where he died shortly before 5 o'clock.

His wife, Mrs. Carrie Simon, founder and honorary president of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, was at his bedside.

In recent years Dr. Simon apparently had been in good health, recovering from a serious illness he suffered about five years ago.

Religious and Civic Leader.

Although he was known throughout the country, Rabbi Simon was best known in the Capital for his active interest in religious and civic affairs.

He was a former president of the Board of Education and was a director and former president of the Columbia Hospital for Women and Children. He also was a former president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and a member of the Board of Trustees of Hebrew Union College.

As a leader among Jews, an educator and an orator of superb eloquence, Dr. Simon through years of untiring zeal for bettering relations between Jew and gentile became recognized as one of the foremost Americans of his race.

Born at Nashville, Tenn., July 14, 1872, he moved with his parents at an early age to Cincinnati, where he received his education and prepared for the Jewish ministry. He attended, in turn, the Cincinnati High School, the University of Cincinnati and the Hebrew Union College, receiving the degrees of LL.D. and Ph.D.

Founded Humanitarian Unit.

After completing his ecclesiastical education he served in the pulpit successively at Sacramento, Calif.; Omaha, Neb., and Washington, coming to the Capital in 1904 as rabbi of the Washington Hebrew Congregation.

During his service at Sacramento Dr. Simon founded a chapter of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Animals, which since has developed into an influential humanitarian organization.

With the advent of the World

(See RABBI SIMON, Page A-7.)

Crime and Tragedy Barred From Page One

By the Associated Press.

POPULAR BLUFF, Mo., Dec. 24.—For the 10th consecutive year, the Daily American-Republic banned news of crime and tragedy from its first page today. J. H. Wolpers, the publisher, in establishing the practice, said: "It is refreshing to publish a newspaper this one day out of the year which contains only more pleasant news on the first page."

Home From Hospital, Wife Finds Husband Dead From Gas

Houston Z. Kerlin, 34,
Served 10 Years as
D. C. Fireman

Last night was a tragic Christmas eve at the Kerlin home at 6412 Ninth street N.W.

Returning home for the holidays after being confined for several weeks in a hospital, Mrs. Virginia Kerlin found the body of her husband, Houston Z. Kerlin, 34, a retired District fireman, on the floor of their gas-filled kitchen. A burner in the range was open, and Mr. Kerlin had been dead for several hours.

Coroner A. Magruder MacDonald

issued a certificate of suicide. Mr. Kerlin, formerly attached to No. 24 Engine Company, had been retired for two years, a multiple leg fracture received when he was thrown from fire apparatus while responding to an alarm having incapacitated him. He since had been employed as an automobile salesman.

Relatives and friends could assign no reason for his act.

Mrs. Kerlin, who had undergone an operation at Sibley Hospital, had come home with two friends, Miss Helen Kerlin and Miss Ethel Perry.

Detecting the fumes, they entered the house and found the body. A nearby physician was summoned, and a call put in for an ambulance from Emergency Hospital. When the physicians arrived, however, they said Mr. Kerlin had been dead several hours. Neighbors recalled his car had been parked in the driveway of the home since early in the day.

Mrs. Kerlin, who is employed in the Government, was overcome by the tragedy and was taken to the home of her family.

Mr. Kerlin had been a member of the Fire Department 10 years when he was injured.

The couple had no children.

Deanna Durbin Asks To Make Name Legal

By the Associated Press.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 24.—Through her parents, Deanna Durbin, 16-year-old film actress, filed a court petition today to have her name changed legally to Deanna from Edna Mae, her real name.

The petition said she is known almost exclusively as Deanna, but sometimes the confusion in names embarrasses her. Also, said the petition, the possession of one legal name would facilitate the various contracts and agreements she enters as an artist.

The Most Precious Gift

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 24 (AP).—Santa Claus paid an early visit to the Tennessee School for the Blind and left for eight students the present they wanted most—restored sight.

He assured them, just before they left for their holiday vacations, that operations on their eyes had been successful and they would be able to enter public schools in the fall.

Radio Programs, Page D-3
Complete Index, Page A-2

Threat to Bomb Store Routs 5,000 Christmas Shoppers

By the Associated Press.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 24.—Five thousand Christmas shoppers and 300 employees were routed from the Sears, Roebuck & Co. store here today by a bombing threat. The building then was closed for the day.

An unidentified man stepped up to the cashier's cage, slipped a note through the grating and fled.

"There is a bomb planted in your store in a spot where it will raise hell," the note read. "It is set to go off around 3 p.m. unless instructions herein contained are complied with."

The note gave instructions that \$2,500 in used currency be paid a man at an East Side rendezvous.

McCarran to Ask Higher Pay for U. S. Workers

May Revive Measure
To Make \$1,500
Minimum Salary

BACKGROUND—

Several efforts have been made in the past few years to raise the general level of salaries in Government service. Employee organizations are on record for a \$1,500 minimum. The last increase was nearly a decade ago. In 1932-33 the employees took cuts of 8 1/2 per cent and then to 15 per cent. Eventually the regular scale was restored.

By J. A. O'LEARY.

A new fight to raise the wage level of Government employees in the lower and middle brackets will be launched in the Congress that assembles next week. It was made known yesterday as Senator McCarran, Democrat, of Nevada and Senator Bulow, Democrat, of South Dakota announced their intentions to push pay bills.

At the same time, Senator McCarran joined Senator Wheeler, Democrat, of Montana in predicting the new Congress would retrieve some of the power it had "turned over to the Executive under stress of emergency," while at the other end of the Capitol, Chairman Taylor of the House Appropriations Committee announced that reports of unnecessary spending by some Government agencies would be "smoked out."

Senator McCarran, a close student of Government personnel problems, said he probably will revive the proposal he first made two years ago to fix \$1,500 as the minimum for full-time adult employment, with small increases for other groups receiving less than \$3,600 a year.

Heretofore the Senator's minimum-wage plan has been interwoven with a comprehensive revision of the present efficiency rating system, but he indicated yesterday, shortly after his return from the West, that he may separate the two questions and offer the salary changes alone. It is believed the pay bill could be expedited if not tied in with general revision of the Classification Act.

Bulow to Offer Bill.

Senator Bulow, who is chairman of the Senate Civil Service Committee, said he probably will reintroduce his bill to make \$1,200 a year the minimum wage in the Government service, and that his present intention is to hold hearings on the whole subject early in the coming session. The \$1,200 proposal was brought forward in the last Congress, presumably as an alternative for the McCarran measure. Neither bill got out of committee.

Asked what his own pay plan is not likely to win approval, Senator McCarran said: "I will support any reasonable wage schedule in keeping with the increased cost of living."

The Senator added that he still feels that when he started the fight for a boost in the lower brackets—that the Federal Government, as the Nation's largest employer, should set an example to private industry by bringing its own full-time workers up to a basis "where the American standard of living can be maintained."

Rating May Be Dropped.

The efficiency rating features of the old bill, which are likely to be left out of the minimum-pay bill this winter, would have done away with the uniform system of efficiency rating and sought to establish a more satisfactory system, with provision for mandatory pay adjustment up or down at regular intervals in accordance with the efficiency standing.

In predicting the move by Congress to retrieve some of its powers, Senator McCarran and Senator Wheeler, who broke with the administration on the reorganization and court plans at the last session, (See McCARRAN, Page A-7.)

Truce Permits Pickets To Enjoy Christmas

By the Associated Press.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—The picket line in the Press Wireless, Inc., labor dispute became an imaginary one today when striking employees and the company called a 36-hour truce so that the pickets might join family Christmas parties.

Pickets for the striking C. I. O. American Communications Association members lowered their banners at noon today. The company, which has not operated here since its 21 employees in San Francisco and Honolulu walked out 15 days ago, agreed it would not attempt to staff its office during the truce. Strikers protested asserted "low pay and long hours."

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